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GEO. D. PEMBERTON, Editor
PAUL E. SHIRMAN, Associate
OLIVER LUCAS, Local Editor and Reporter.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1861.

STATE RIGHTS.—For many years past, the grand cry of nearly all of the present leaders in this rebellion has been the protection of State rights. State rights, so-called, has been the grand principle of their political creed, the principle upon which they have professed to base their whole course of political action. They have declared every State to be a sovereign, possessing the right to regulate its own policy and destiny according to its own will. The right of every State to remain in the Union or to go out of it, to transfer its allegiance to another Government or to establish an independent and isolated Government of its own, they have declared to be unquestionable and sacred. They have denounced all opposition to this doctrine as despotism or abolitionism.

This has ever been the proclaimed theory of the rebel leaders, and now see what they are doing in Kentucky. Our State, within a brief period, has, according to all the forms of her Constitution and her laws, voted by immense majorities to remain in the Union, and at the same time she has declared that she would not invade the Confederate States or consent to their being invaded through her territory. But her votes and her declarations have been disregarded and spurned. Without provocation and with no pretext not utterly absurd, the authorities of the Southern Confederacy have thrown sixty or eighty thousand men into Kentucky, and their Generals have come among us and pronouncing proclamations pronouncing our regularly elected Legislature a body of usurpers, claiming the right to abrogate our laws and subvert laws of their own, directing that our State taxes shall not be paid into the State Treasury or to its agents but into the hands of the military authorities of the South, destroying our public works, leading men to rob and murder us, and avowedly intending to establish by force of arms their absolute dominion throughout and over the State. A more utter subversion of State rights and of everything that anybody ever called by that name was never heard of or conceived, and never can be. If the tyrants of France or the despot of Russia were to bring an army of invasion and come into the midst of Kentucky, he could not set State rights more entirely at defiance than Buckner and Zollicoffer and Polk have done and are doing and intend to do. If these men succeed, not a solitary State right will be left in Kentucky—and no other right except that of bowing to the will of our conquerors.

The time has come when the only question for the people of Kentucky to decide is whether they will maintain by their own good right the high and vital privilege of governing themselves through the ballot-box or whether they will submit to be conquered by an invading army and have laws imposed upon them neither of their own making nor of their own choice. The success of the Confederate arms in Kentucky would be the conquest of Kentucky; it would to all intents and purposes be subjugation. It would set a stain upon our State darker than that which gave her the name of the bloody ground, a stain that the rains and dews of ages could never wash out. Throughout all the coming years, the assured truth would remain that Kentucky was subdued by an invading force, and the native-born citizens of our State, generation after generation, would blush and hang their heads to confess themselves her sons. Fellow-citizens of Kentucky, with us at this trying moment, everything is at stake that a patriotic people, a wise people, or a proud people, can value. We trust that all of us are equal to the great and terrible crisis. Shall our Legislature, elected by us, driven by the bayonet from the capitol and summarily punished as traitors by the military emissaries of that Government at Richmond in which Kentucky has had no more agency in establishing than she had in establishing the Russian or the Turkish despotism? If our people disapprove the acts of their new Legislature, will they not assert and if possible maintain the right of electing a new one according to the provisions of the Constitution of their own making instead of permitting their foxy functions to be used by men, who, like Mexican usurpers, claim the right to govern by proclamation?

The events of the next few months if not of the next few weeks must determine whether the name of Kentucky shall be honored, what it has been, another name for independence and honor and renown—a name of reproach and contempt among men. If any of us sons have one drop of manly blood in their veins, now is the time for them to risk shedding it in her cause. Never since she was a State, did she need the service of all her true children so much as she needs it now. Her great spirit, in a mournful tone and yet a high tone of command, calls all her children to her rescue. To stand back, to hesitate not, while that awful call is sounding in our ears and in our hearts, is to be the vilest and basest of recreants. Who then dares call himself a man will be guilty of it?

The very harsh and comprehensive compensation law enacted by the fate Confederate Congress and now enforced throughout the Southern Confederacy will undoubtedly, if continued, provoke retaliatory legislation on the part of the U.S. Congress. We do not believe that the latter body will, under any circumstances, pass a law corresponding to all parts with the Southern law. Our Congress, for instance, will not pass a law condemning the practice of all persons in the South who loyal to the Union, will not pass a law confiscating the property of peaceful foreigners residing in the South. But we shall not be at surprised at the enactment of such a law as will teach Southern rebels, wherever the arms of the United States are able to find them, that their way, that their own property will be used to make amends for the multifarious robberies practiced by the Government they sustain.

We learn from the New Orleans Delta of the 25th ult. that four persons in that city, thought to be disloyal to the Southern Confederacy, were sent for six months to the Workhouse. This appears to be a new punishment for disloyalty. What would our secessionists think if we should conclude to try it on them? If they consider it, as undoubtedly they do, a capital thing for New Orleans, how do they fancy it would suit sinuous 33° and longitude 114° 2'?

A correspondent, who expresses great confidence in our opinions, asks us if we should be disappointed if Gen. Buckner were to take possession of Louisville. For prudential reasons we might deem it proper to withhold an opinion upon the subject, but, in this instance, we say to our correspondent in all candor, that, if Buckner were to march into Louisville with his army, we should not doubt he'd feel very much at home.

An awful place the South is getting to be the secessionists. Just think of it. Money almost as scarce as patriotism, drinks fifteen cents, and customers forbidden to eat the ice in the bottom of the glass! How long can the poor fellows stand that?

Willis B. Machen of Lyon county, a member of the last Legislature, has gone to the rebels in search of his rights. We always anticipated that he would succeed at the first indications of a Confederate movement upon our State. He was, as a legislator, in favor of the most extreme measures, and went as far as any of his colleagues except Cleary. Mr. Machen, who was made chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs by Speaker Merriweather, no doubt for the purpose of giving his treasonable designs upon the State, reported a bill to provide for the military defense of the State. This appropriated \$1,300,000 for the purchase of arms and cannon, \$2,500,000 for pay and subsistence of troops, \$1,000,000 for expense of Quartermaster's Department; for camp equipage, hospital purposes, and pontoon train, \$125,000; for horses \$67,000; for clothing \$160,000, and \$200,000 for contingencies, including a sum total of over six million dollars. This is one of the bills supplied by Buckner, then Inspector General of the State Guard, when he was steeped in treason, and only a few weeks before he visited Washington City to inspect the fortifications there, previous to his visit to the Confederate authorities at Richmond. We may thank the vigilance of the venerable Judge Underwood, of Warren county, that this scheme did not succeed, for at his suggestion the bill was recommended to the Committee on Military Affairs with instructions to limit the appropriations to the purchase of 40,000 stand of arms, the equipments for 1,000 cavalry, and three batteries of artillery, to deposit \$160,000 for the purchase of munitions, \$600,000 for training, and to divide the arms equally between the State and Home Guards. Most fortunately for the State and our tax-payers, Machen's injurious bill was defeated and the wiser course suggested by Judge Underwood adopted.

When Mr. Machen was defending his bill, he pointed out the dangers of foreign invasion, domestic treachery, and servile insurrection as three points to be guarded against, and therefore he demanded so large an appropriation. Providentially, however, though the Legislature at that time could not believe Gen. Buckner was at any time or any circumstances lead himself to an assault on the liberties of the State or any portion of it, still as a matter of caution, and in consideration of the central Government, when an unscrupulous general, like McHenry, was advancing to Woodbury, with 125 of his infantry, 100 of Jackson's, and two companies of the 1st and 2nd artillery squad under Capt. Somerby, left Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, and encamped at Hartford that night. Next morning he joined by 80 men of Col. McHenry's command, under Capt. Morton, they took up the line of march for Bora's Ferry, on Green River, which they reached before night, and sent out scouts to ascertain the strength and position of the enemy on the other side of the river, who returned after one o'clock with the desired information, Capt. Morton, of McHenry's regiment, and Lieut. Ashford of Jackson's cavalry, were ordered across the river, it then being the intention to cross the river at the point where the rebels had crossed, but a crack breakfast.

Colonel McHenry, with 125 men, learning there was a scouting party in the vicinity of Morgan-town for the purpose of committing depredations on the property of Union men, advanced and engaged and routed them near Morgan-town with a loss of 10 men, Capt. Morton, Capt. Neiter, and Lieut. Ashford, of Jackson's cavalry, with 20 men, Colonel McHenry, and a short distance beyond.

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